

2012 Parks Budget Community Conversations

**Table 5 - Summary of Responses
Tuesday, May 3, 2011, Meadowbrook Community Center**

Question #5: The City's parks system is expensive to maintain and is subsidized, on average, by about 67 cents on the dollar. What tradeoffs would you be willing to make between a) maintaining parks system services; and b) increasing commercial activity in parks? This might include increased food and drink vending, sponsorships or fee-based programming.

Basic sentiments from all groups:

- More food and drink could be fine – even a benefit.
- Sponsorships, if modest and discrete. Did not like this option, but given hard times, willing to go there. Keep sponsorships out of natural areas (e.g. Discovery Park), but O.K. at ballfields, off-leash dog areas, etc.
- Don't want things that would permanently change access and limit admission to certain areas of parks.
- Fees would be last choice – discourage use.
- Health local food – no chain restaurants.
- Don't develop restaurants that displace other users.
- Look at impact fees as an additional revenue source.
- Metropolitan Park District could provide on-going revenue source.
- Worried about "creeping commercialization". So maybe some sponsorships O.K., but how will they be limited?
- Food should be local and small – see similar comment above.
- Avoid long-term deals for short-term gain – economy may improve.
- Shorter-term leases rather than longer-term.

Overall – willing to accept all three (concessions, sponsorships and fees); least excited by fees that hurt access for those who cannot afford.